





preached before the Presbyterian Synod of New South Wales, by the Moderator, was published in Sydney. In the preface to that sermon the author states that as far as the members of that Synod could ascertain, from the commencement of the colony up to that date, only one Presbyterian had suffered the extreme penalty of the law, while executions were taking place in the colony.

Moreover, Mr. Milne is a minister of the Gospel—a Presbyterian minister. He has received the full literary, scientific, and theological education required for ordination to the ministry in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and was chosen for this mission as a man of exemplary character. Now, for as long as he is there, before he is three years out of Scotland, he should set himself systematically to excite the natives to shoot or tomahawk his fellow countrymen, as if that were a special part of the work for which he was sent to the New Hebrides, seems very surprising. But yet, strange to say, this seems to be the universal belief among the white men on these islands. Wonderful credulity!

"It will be obvious to all that it would be highly inexpedient in us to indicate either the individuals or the tribe, whom we might consider the guilty parties in this case, as by doing so we might endanger both the Mission family and the Haaotongan teachers; all the more, as there is no reason to doubt, but that a man-of-war would be here, and that when it comes it will be abundantly interested. It has become absolutely necessary that these outrages, now of such frequent occurrence, should be fully enquired into, and let the guilty everywhere be punished. Only we would say, in the words of Bishop Patterson, we 'desire to protest by anticipation against any punishment being inflicted upon natives of these islands, who may cut off vessels, or kill boat's crews, unless it is fully shown that these acts are not done in the way of retribution for outrages first committed by white men.'

There are no effects without causes, and the cause must always be equal to the effects. The effects at present are of a very startling character, and indicate the operation of causes of a most painful and disastrous nature.

On the 20th of August, the effects of certain information was obtained of men belonging to vessels being killed by natives.

The Dayang was only six weeks away from Nguana; when she returned we found not only these men killed here, but that two others had died of their wounds in Havannah Harbour.

On the 23rd July, Captain J. Walsh, of the Maria Banks, was put ashore, Mr. Banks, who was then at Nguana, and the effects of eleven arrows, received at an island in Banks's Group called Baibau. He suffered terrible agony, and died of lockjaw on the 26th, about fifteen days after he was wounded.

On the 28th July, Captain Robinson, of the Marion Henny, went ashore at the same station suffering from a spear wound received on Santo, and after suffering great pain, died also of his wounds.

What is most lamentable in these cases is that, in most instances it is the innocent who suffer, while the guilty escape. One sows, but another reaps; one sows the wind, and another reaps the whirlwind.

"These natives are poor ignorant savages, and their ideas of retribution are very different from ours; but while they are ignorant savages, we must, in all our dealing with them, remember that they are such, otherwise serious consequences may follow our overlooking this fact.

Our principles are to inflict punishment only on the guilty individual; they think only of the guilty tribe.

They look upon all white men as belonging to one tribe; hence, if white men belonging to that tribe commit any outrages on natives, these natives will, if they can, have their vengeance on the men belonging to the next vessel that comes within their reach.

The natives of Nguana, the white men themselves being witnesses, have long been especially noted for their quiet and peaceful conduct towards white men in boats and vessels. It is remarkable that they have been so easily led into some cause for this outrage; that cause may or may not appear to be sufficient, according to our ideas, for such a terrible act of retribution, but from the native stand point it may be quite sufficient; and in our intercourse with them we must make our calculations of consequences according to their ideas of right and wrong, not according to ours.

The Jason's wife was shot at Nguana, and the husband died, and received the wound.

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## SYDNEY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The adjourned quarterly meeting of the Sydney Municipal Council was held at the Town-hall yesterday morning. The members present were Mr. Alderman Macintosh (chair), and Aldermen B. Phelps, Murphy, Palmer, Mortlock, Oxley, Day, Gould, Gardner, Rosely, Kippax, Merriman, Woods, and Andrews.

Report from the Finance, Water, and Improvement Committees were received and laid on the table.

## PETITIONS.

Alderman MACINTOSH presented a petition from the whole of the inhabitants of Bathurst street East, asking for a reduction of the street water-rate.

## THE ROTARY WATERSHED.

The following report from the City Engineer, Mr. Francis Bell, was laid on the table:—

CITY ENGINEER'S FIRST REPORT ON THE CAPABILITIES OF THE LACHLAN AND BOTANY WATERSHEDS.

## "City Engineer's Office."

"Sydney, 18th September, 1871.

"Sir.—Before entering on this my first report to your Council, I would take the opportunity of thanking you for the very great interest you have taken in this subject, and for sending us your Report No. 1, the large number of competitors. I feel justly proud of the position in which I am placed, and trust that as far as in my power I will not cause that confidence to be misplaced."

"A man I was totally unacquainted with the locality, never having been on the ground before, and under these circumstances I can safely say that I undertook the duties unbiassed with respect to any scheme that had been previously proposed.

"I am now the honour to report, that the first and immediate work of consequence that presented itself to me, was the report to the machinery at Botany, and in accordance with the minute of instructions 22nd April, 1871, to report on the machinery, and to advise whether the machinery, &c., at Botany, Water Works, which can be seen at Town Clerk's office, and to take steps for proceeding with the repair of foundations, and other necessary matters, referred to in the report. It is to be noted, for information, that the report of the duplicate gear, &c., recommended by Mr. Russell, I have had prepared drawings and specifications for new crank pedestal and bed plates for each engine in place of the broken ones, also shafts and brackets for fitting them, and have also prepared drawings for the pedestal, which the eastern or double engine rests. These castings are now completed and delivered at Botany from Mr. Morris' Dock and Engineering Company's Works, and arrangements made to have them fitted in the engine room as soon as possible, and when done, I can have this work will be of most permanent character, and will be much more substantiated than it originally was. The faulty foundation of the western engine has been repaired by inserting a mass of iron, recommended by Mr. Russell, in the crank pedestal, and fully detailed in Mr. Westcott's report.

"I was also instructed to carry out the works specified in the following minute of Council, dated 28th March, 1871:—'Proprietary machinery, &c., to be supplied to the contractor of engines at the Lachlan Swamp, north of the Randwick Road, with water, static culverts, &c., as referred to in the City Engineer's report (herewith), dated 28th September, 1870, placed on page 176.'

"Previous to carrying out these instructions, I despatched a letter to the contractor, as to what was to be done.

"I now have information as to what a certain amount of the construction of an embankment on the site indicated, and involving such a large amount of money as has been estimated, viz., £247,000, to test the ground thoroughly for myself, by having surveys, borings made, and with your kind permission, I will proceed with the examination as quickly as circumstances will permit.

"The first boring I had put down was close to the Randwick Road on the northern side, about 200 yards from the Town-hall, and to a depth of 100 feet, and was entirely pure sand, when we drove in a six-inch cylinder, and this continued to a depth of 180 feet from the surface, or 6 feet below sea level without reaching rock. At the depth of 76 feet the water in the tube stood 3 feet 2 inches above the surface water outside the tube, showing clearly the pressure and the higher source from whence the water came.

"Having now proved beyond a doubt the existence of this great body of sand, charged with one-third water, and from which we could not get any water, I will proceed to sink in the sand cylindrical iron walls at such places as may be determined—it may be that we might require three or four—and to have one large one to pump from; this last would be required for the pumping of the water, and this would be furnished with locks and stop-cocks, so as to accurately adjust the flow of water into the main-well. For instance, if a well sunk halfway down the swamp, the water would be pumped from a depth of 100 feet to 99 feet above the sea, and another towards Moore Park, at a level of 100 feet above the sea, then let the pumping well be at the level of say, 95 feet, as long as the water in the tube in the one cylinder is 5 feet above sea level, then the water would be pumped into the main-well, and so on, repeating the operation at necessary intervals, so as to have a constant flow of water, and this would be furnished with locks and stop-cocks, so as to accurately adjust the flow of water into the main-well.

"The Right Worshipful the Mayor, &c., Postscript to Report to His Excellency the Governor.

"Sydney, 21st September, 1871.

"No. 3 boring is now 87 feet deep, and still in pure sand; or 1 foot over sea-level.

"No. 4 boring is now 87 feet deep, and no change; or 1 foot over sea-level.

Corporation property, by raising and extending the embankment, so as to bring the level of the land to the level of the water when the reservoir is full of 7 feet above the present level; this would give a storage capacity in the two reservoirs of about two hundred million gallons, or eight weeks' supply at the present rate of consumption.

"I have now addressed myself entirely to the surface supply, or that existing above the inclined plane of swamps. I would now prefer my further remarks by saying that from the borings I have myself taken, and those that can be relied upon have taken, I find that there exists an enormous reservoir hidden under the surface of the inclined plane I have before alluded to, and that this reservoir is naturally formed by the very materials on a vast scale that most of the great watercourses in Australia are formed in. It is a large reservoir, and in it we have a large filter-bed of some seven square miles in area, by depths varying from 100 feet and upwards.

"It would appear that this area of the watershed was at one time a deep valley with most precipitous gorges, but not an inlet of the sea. As we have now gone with our bearings considerably below the sea level without reaching rock, and as this valley faces the south, it is reasonable to suppose that it has been filled in by the action of the waves, and here we have a large filter-bed of some seven square miles in area, by depths varying from 100 feet and upwards.

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